

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 729
By Turner M

A RESOLUTION to create a special joint committee to study the effect of illegal immigration on Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee and its cities, counties and municipalities are facing perennial budget problems due to increased pressures on its infrastructure – schools, roads, public safety, and other matters; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee, along with many of our neighboring states, has seen a dramatic rise in the number of illegal immigrants in recent years with published reports of over 150,000 undocumented immigrants residing within our borders, according to the Pew Hispanic Center; and

WHEREAS, such an increase in population requires additional personnel, services and infrastructure that can quickly drain state and local tax coffers even while economic development and new job opportunities expand the financial revenues of a locality; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that there is hereby created a special joint committee to study the effect of illegal immigration on Tennessee including, but not limited to, any current and future fiscal impact on state and local governments in the area of governmental services, economic development, education and healthcare.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that as a part of the study, the committee shall examine the fiscal impact of illegal immigration on the public school systems of this state due to increased demand for English as a Secondary Language service; costs associated with the increased demand for bilingual governmental employees, especially law enforcement personnel

and court officials; the social and economic impact upon the Tennessee job market; and the non-reimbursed costs of public healthcare services for such immigrants.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee shall consist of four (4) members of the House of Representatives and four (4) members of the Senate, to be appointed by the respective speakers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the special joint committee upon request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special joint committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly, and at its first meeting shall elect a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the One Hundred Fifth General Assembly no later than January 1, 2007, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.